MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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- 1. Name of Landmark: Dam Number 2 on the Potomac River
- 2. Location: On the Potomac River, 0.6 miles downstream from the mouth of Seneca Creek; at Violet's Lock on the C&O Canal.
- 3. <u>Present use</u>: The dam is in disrepair and is submerged with water flowing over it.
- 4. Owner:
- 5. Date or period built: 1829-1831. It was rebuilt in 1867 only to suffer further ice damage requiring the rebuilding of the canal in 1873. Except for a 50 foot segment of the dam near the canal the dam has not been repaired since the early 1900's.
- 6. Architectural description: Built with brush and gravel with an archstone capping. The dam is 2,500 feet long and spans the width of the Potomac.
- 7. Builder: C&O Canal Company
- 8. Original owner: C&O Canal Company
- 9. Historic association: The dam was built by the canal company to feed water into the canal at Violet's Lock at a cost of \$29,000. On the Virginia side the dam feeds water into the Virginia canal, built by the Powtomack Company in 1785-92 to serve as a deep water chute around the rapids just below the site of the dam. The dam has a noticable effect on the river, backing water up for 9 miles, to form "Seneca Lake".
- 10. <u>Bibliography</u>: 1. Interview with Bill Davies, 125 West Greenway Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. Mr. Davies supplied most of the information used by the researcher in writing this report.
- 11. Researcher: Lewis Fisher 2653 Woodley Road, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008

